

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 061428Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1964

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP

REF: LISBON 1147

1. REVIEW OF PARTIES CONTESTING ELECTION:

FOR PURPOSES OF QUICK REVIEW, WE LIST BELOW THE 15 PARTIES WHICH HAVE LEGALIZED IN ORDER TO CONTEST APRIL 12 ELECTION.

(A) THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES (TOTAL OF 5): CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (FORMING SOLE ELECTORAL COALITION IN CAMPAIGN): CDS, PDC--UCDC; SOCIALIST/SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC; PS, PPD; MONARCHIST: PPM.

(B) THE COMMUNIST AND COMMUNIST-LINING PARTIES (TOTAL OF 4):

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PCP, MDP/CDE, MES, FSP.

(C) THE FAR LEFT (TOTAL OF 6): AOC, FEC, LCI, MRPP, PUP, UDP.

2. DEGREE OF ELECTION PARTICIPATION:

(A) IN ALL 22 DISTRICTS: UCDC, PPD, PS, MDP/CDE, PCP.

(B) IN 16 OR MORE DISTRICTS: MES (16), FSP (18), MRPP (16).

(C) IN LESS THAN 16 DISTRICTS: PPM (12); AOC (14), FEC (11),
LCI (4), UDP (10).

(D) NOT YET STATED: PUP.

3. MODIFICATIONS IN ELECTORAL LAW:

SEVERAL MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN ELECTORAL LAW WERE ANNOUNCED MARCH 6, OF WHICH MOST NOTEWORTHY ARE (MAKING OFFICIAL WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED) DELAY IN OPENING OF CAMPAIGN TO MARCH 20, AND SETTING BACK TO MARCH 10 OF DEADLINE FOR PRESENTING CANDIDATES FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

4. POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENTS:

FSP PARTY HEAD MANUEL SERRA WILL HEAD PARTY LIST IN SETUBAL (HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED DISTRICT SOUTH OF LISBON). DURING AOC PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE CANDIDATE LISTS, AN AOC SPOKESMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "ELEMENTS OF THE PPD AND PS" WERE AMONG THOSE SIGNING PAPERS TO LEGALIZE PARTY; SPOKESMAN ALSO REPEATED THAT AOC CONSIDERS PS AN ALLY IN FIGHT AGAINST PCP AND ITS SATELLITES, AND THAT IT PROBABLY WILL SUPPORT PS CANDIDATES IN THOSE DISTRICTS WHERE AOC IS NOT RUNNING CANDIDATES OF ITS OWN. PPD WILL HOLD INDOOR PUBLIC RALLY IN DOWNTOWN LISBON EVENING MAY 6 TO PRESENT ITS CANDIDATES FOR LISBON AREA: IN MARCH 5 PRESS CONFERENCE PARTY LEADER MAHALHAES MOTA DENOUNCED MOUNTING WAVE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE, BUT SAID PPD WOULD NOT ASK GOVERNMENT OR MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT LISBON RALLY.

5. PPD CRITICAL OF AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

LISBON PPD UNIT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE MARCH 5 TAKING EXCEPTION TO AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S FEB. 28 STATEMENT DENOUNCING POLITICAL VIOLENCE (REFTEL). PPD ACCUSED COORDINATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE OF HAVING "POLARIZED" POLITICAL GAME BY REFERRING IN ITS STATEMENT TO ATTACKS TAKING PLACE ON TWO SIDES: ON ONE HAND THE PCP, ON THE OTHER THE PPD AND CDS. PPD COMMUNIQUE OBJECTED STRONGLY TO LINKAGE OF PPD WITH CDS IN THIS CONTEXT, AS TWO PARTIES ARE "ABSOLUTELY ALIEN" TO EACH OTHER.
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